

Pending claims are listed as follows:

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- 2 **Sub B** 1. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus comprising:
- 3 a first device;
- 4 a first connector coupled to the first device;
- 5 a second connector coupled to the first connector through a first plurality of
- 6 conductors, wherein alternating pairs of conductors are reversed; and
- 7 a second device coupled to the second connector through a second plurality
- 8 of conductors.
- 9
- 10 2. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first
- 11 device includes a plurality of differential drivers.
- 12
- 13 3. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the second
- 14 device includes a plurality of differential receivers.
- 15
- 16 4. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first
- 17 device is an integrated circuit.
- 18
- 19 5. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first
- 20 device is an integrated circuit disposed on a substrate, wherein the substrate is
- 21 electrically coupled to the integrated circuit and the first connector.
- 22
- 23 6. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the second
- 24 device is an integrated circuit.
- 25

1 7. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the first
2 device has an inductive coupling coefficient substantially the same as the
3 inductive coupling coefficient of the second device.

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5 8. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein the
6 alternating pairs of conductors are reversed once between the first connector and
7 the second connector.

8
9 9. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein alternating
10 pairs of conductors in the second plurality of conductors are reversed.

11
12 10. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus comprising:
13 a first integrated circuit including a plurality of differential drivers;
14 a first connector coupled to the first integrated circuit;
15 a second connector coupled to the first connector through a plurality of
16 electrical conductors, wherein alternating pairs of the electrical conductors are
17 reversed; and
18 a second integrated circuit coupled to the second connector, wherein the
19 second integrated circuit includes a plurality of differential receivers.

20
21 11. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 further
22 comprising a second plurality of electrical conductors coupled between the second
23 connector and the second integrated circuit, wherein alternating pairs of the second
24 plurality of electrical conductors are reversed.
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1 12. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 further
2 comprising a second plurality of electrical conductors coupled between the second
3 connector and the second integrated circuit, wherein each pair of conductors
4 includes an inverted conductor and a non-inverted conductor, each inverted
5 conductor coupled to a non-inverted input of one of the differential receivers, and
6 each non-inverted conductor coupled to an inverted input of one of the differential
7 receivers.

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9 13. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the first
10 integrated circuit has an inductive coupling coefficient substantially the same as
11 the inductive coupling coefficient of the second integrated circuit.

12
13 14. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the
14 alternating pairs of electrical conductors are reversed once between the first
15 connector and the second connector.

16
17 15. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus comprising:
18 a printed circuit board;
19 a plurality of connectors disposed on the printed circuit board;
20 a first integrated circuit disposed on a first substrate, wherein the first
21 substrate is configured to be coupled to one of the plurality of connectors;
22 a second integrated circuit disposed on a second substrate, wherein the
23 second substrate is configured to be coupled to one of the plurality of connectors;
24 and
25

1 a first plurality of electrical conductors coupled to the plurality of
2 connectors, wherein alternating pairs of conductors between adjacent connectors
3 have reversed polarity.
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5 16. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 wherein the
6 printed circuit board is a backplane.
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8 17. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 further
9 comprising a second plurality of conductors coupled between the first integrated
10 circuit and one of the plurality of connectors, wherein alternating pairs of
11 conductors have reversed polarity.
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13 18. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 wherein the first
14 substrate is a printed circuit board.
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16 19. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 wherein the first
17 substrate is a memory module.
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19 20. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 wherein the first
20 integrated circuit is a memory device.
21

22 21. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus as recited in claim 15 wherein the first
23 integrated circuit has an inductive coupling substantially the same as the inductive
24 coupling of the second integrated circuit.
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1 22. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An apparatus comprising:
2 a first device having an associated first inductive coupling coefficient; and
3 a second device coupled to the first device through a plurality of electrical
4 conductors, the second device having an associated second inductive coupling
5 coefficient, wherein the first inductive coupling coefficient ~~of the first device~~ is
6 adjusted to be substantially the same as the second inductive coupling coefficient
7 ~~of the second device~~.

8
9 23. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein the first
10 device includes a plurality of differential drivers, wherein each differential driver
11 is coupled to a pair of electrical conductors.

12
13 24. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein the
14 second device includes a plurality of differential receivers, wherein each
15 differential receiver is coupled to a pair of electrical conductors.

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17 25. **(ORIGINAL)** An apparatus as recited in claim 22 further
18 comprising a pair of connectors coupled between the first device and the second
19 device, wherein a second plurality of electrical conductors are coupled between
20 the pair of connectors, and wherein alternating pairs of electrical conductors are
21 reversed.

22
23 26. **(ORIGINAL)** A method comprising:
24 generating a plurality of differential signals;
25

1 transmitting the plurality of differential signals through a first connector
2 and a second connector to a plurality of differential receivers;

3 reversing the polarity of alternating differential signals between the first
4 and second connectors; and

5 reversing the polarity of alternating differential signals between the second
6 connector and the plurality of differential receivers.

7
8 27. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 26 wherein the first
9 connector generated inductive coupling noise as the differential signals are
10 transmitted through the first connector.

11
12 28. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 26 wherein the second
13 connector generated inductive coupling noise opposite the noise generated by the
14 first connector as the differential signals are transmitted through the second
15 connector.

16
17 29. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 26 further including
18 decoding the plurality of differential signals.

19
20 30. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 26 wherein a transmitter
21 package transmits the plurality of differential signals and a receiver package
22 receives the plurality of differential signals.

1 31. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 30 further including
2 modifying the transmitter package such that the coupling coefficient of the
3 transmitter package is substantially the same as the receiver package.

4
5 32. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising:
6 modifying a transmitter package such that the coupling coefficient of the
7 transmitter package is substantially the same as the coupling coefficient of a
8 receiver package;
9 transmitting multiple pairs of differential signals using the transmitter
10 package; and
11 receiving the multiple pairs of differential signals using the receiver
12 package.

13
14 33. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the
15 transmitter package transmits multiple pairs of differential signals across a
16 plurality of conductors.

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18 34. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 32 further comprising
19 decoding the multiple pairs of differential signals.

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21 35. (ORIGINAL) A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the
22 differential signals are transmitted through a pair of connectors on a plurality of
23 conductors, wherein alternating pairs of conductors are reversed between the pair
24 of connectors.